

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SSM-03 ACDA-12

TRSE-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 /138 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1448

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02026

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: AORG, SY, PEPR, MARR

SUBJECT: UN FINANCES: SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR UNIFIL

REFS: (A) DAMASCUS 2646, (B) USUN 1638

1. USUN NOTES THAT DURING MAY 8 CONVERSATION BETWEEN CHARGE AND FONMIN KHADDAM (REF A), LATTER STATED THAT SYRIA SUPPORTS PRESENCE OF UN (UNIFIL) IN LEBANON AND WISHES TO FACILITATE ITS TASKS. USUN HOPES THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD AGREE THAT AS OCCASIONS ARISE IN FUTURE EMBASSY DAMASCUS MAY BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THIS STATEMENT TO SOFTEN UP SOMEWHAT SYRIA'S REFUSAL TO SUPPORT COSTS OF UNIFIL OPERATION. SYRIAN SHIFT AT LEAST TO ABSTENTION ON FINANCING OF AUGMENTATION OF UNIFIL WHEN IT ARISES WITHIN FEW WEEKS WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE. WHILE SYRIA'S ASSESSMENT IN ITSELF DOES NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT SOLVENCY OF UNIFIL OPERATION, DECISION BY SYRIA TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO UNIFIL WOULD UNDERCUT SOVIET REFUSAL TO PAY ITS SHARE, WHICH APPROACHES 15 PERCENT OF TOTAL. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT, OF COURSE, IN TERMS OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MANDATED OPERATIONS.

2. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL TO DAMASCUS. AT EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC VOTED NEGATIVELY AGAINST DRAFT RESOLUTION ON FINANCING OF UNIFIL IN BOTH FIFTH COMMITTEE AND PLENARY (PARA 4, REF B). IN FIFTH COMMITTEE SYRIAN

REP (HAMZAH) SAID ITS VOTE WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST UN TROOPS' DIFFICULT BURDEN OR AGAINST THEIR MANDATE BUT AGAINST RESOLUTION'S FAILURE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN AGGRESSOR AND VICTIM, ESPECIALLY AS FAR AS BEARING THE COST OF OPERATION WAS CONCERNED. SYRIA BELIEVED FULLY IN ENDING THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION BUT DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIL WAS THE RIGHT WAY TO END THAT OCCUPATION, AND IT ALSO BELIEVED THE COSTS SHOULD BE BORNE FULLY BY THE AGGRESSOR. IN PLENARY (AL-HUSSAMY) SAID THE FINANCING OF UNIFIL INVOLVED ENORMOUS EXPENDITURES TO BE BORNE BY THE ENTIRE WORLD, WHICH IS ALREADY SPENDING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVERY YEAR FOR UNEF AND UNDOF, EXPENSES DUE TO ACTS OF AGGRESSION BY THE AGGRESSOR, ISRAEL. HE REITERATED THAT DRAFT RESOLUTION DID NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN AGGRESSOR AND VICTIM AND STATED HIS DELEGATION'S NEGATIVE VOTE WAS NOT A VOTE AGAINST THE NOBLE HUMAN TASK UNDERTAKEN BY THE UN FORCE TO PRESERVE PEACE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BUT RATHER A VOTE THAT ACCORDS WITH THE POSITION OF PRINCIPLE OF HIS COUNTRY. LEONARD

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